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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,222	11/26/2001	Joshua Makower	TRNSV-013BCC	1596

7590

07/26/2004

MEDTRONIC VASCULAR, INC.  
IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT  
3576 UNOCAL PLACE  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

EXAMINER
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ISABELLA, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/994,222

Applicant(s)

MAKOWER ET AL.

Examiner

DAVID J ISABELLA

Art Unit

3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2004.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-64 and 71-82 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 65-70 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Status of the Claims***

Claims 2-64,71-82 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 4.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claims 65-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilk (5429144).**

Wilk discloses a stent for stenting a transmyocardial passageway including a tubular body that has a radially collapsed configuration and a radially expanded configuration. The stent has a predetermined length which meets the limitation of “having a length” as claimed. The recitation of “which is longer than the length of the transmyocardial passageway” is directed to a method step of sizing the stent prior to inserting the stent such that selection of the stent is to be longer than the passageway when situated in situ. Examiner agrees with applicant that Wilk does not specifically recognize the need for sizing the stent for protrusive stenting between the chamber of

the heart and the coronary vessel wherein the stent is longer than the transmyocardial passageway. However, note column 6, lines 60+, Wilk discloses that the stent may be select from a kit of different stent sizes. Examiner maintains that a stent having a predetermined length and a radially expanded and collapsed configuration is clearly disclosed by Wilk. ( For disclosure of the stent see column 5, lines 42-65, column 6, lines 24-34, column 7, lines 27-45, and column 8, lines 1-58. )

Claim 66, see column 5, lines 42-65.

Claim 67, see column 6, lines 24-34.

Claim 68-71, see column 8, lines 39-58.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 5/24/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argues that the claim as amended recites an apparatus limitation and not a method step. It is not clear how the amended language defines over the structure of Wilk. Examiner agrees with applicant that Wilk does not specifically recognize the need for sizing the stent for protrusive stenting between the chamber of the heart and the coronary vessel wherein the stent is longer than the transmyocardial passageway. However, note column 6, lines 60+, Wilk discloses that the stent may be select from a kit of different stent sizes. Moreover, other than for choosing a stent having a length which is longer than the length of the passageway, it is not clear how applicant's claimed device distinguishes over the device of Wilk which can chosen from a kit of different stent sizes. Examiner maintains that a stent having a

predetermined length and a radially expanded and collapsed configuration is clearly disclosed by Wilk and this stent clearly meets the structural limitations of applicant's claims.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

### ***Citation of Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art to Freitag (5674277) and Buirge et al (5693085) has been cited teaching the use of both balloon expandable stent/graft and self-expanding stent/graft..

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID J ISABELLA whose telephone number is 703-308-3060. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CORRINE MCDERMOTT can be reached on 703-308-2111. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DAVID J ISABELLA  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3738

DJI  
7/23/2004